

What is claimed is:

1. A platen press device comprising:

first and second platens forming a press;

a drive mechanism linked to at least one of the platens;

5 a driven biasing member linked to at least one of the platens; and

a tensioner linked to the driven biasing member.

2. The platen press of claim 1, further comprising an arm that links the drive mechanism to the at least one platen, wherein the driven biasing member movably engages the arm, and wherein the tensioner comprises a stud and nut, the stud being affixed to the driven biasing member and the nut threadedly engages the stud and abuts the arm.

3. The platen press of claim 2, wherein the driven biasing member is rigidly connected to the second platen, and wherein a portion of the driven biasing member moves with respect to the arm once the first and second platens establish contact.

4. The platen press of claim 3, wherein the driven biasing member is selectively fixed relative to the arm and a relative separation of the platens is altered for a rigid operation by threaded rotation of the nut about the stud.

5. The platen press of claim 1, wherein the driven biasing member is a spring driven biasing member comprising a spring about a guide shaft and a dwell spacer, the spring providing a bias force, the press further comprising an arm linked to the driving mechanism and the at least one platen, and wherein the arm moves in opposition to the bias force when the platens establish contact.

6. The platen press of claim 5, wherein the spring driven biasing member further comprises a glider slidably engaging the arm and fixed to the piston and at least one of the platens, and wherein the tensioner comprises a stud affixed to the glider and a nut threadedly engaging the stud and abutting the arm.

7. The platen press device of claim 6, further comprising:

a backshaft having at least one offset bearing journal extending from one end, the bearing journal being connected to the glider and the backshaft being connected to the at least one platen; and

wherein the position of the at least one platen is variable by rotation of the backshaft about the centerline of the offset bearing journal.

8. The platen press of claim 2, wherein the driven biasing member is a fluid-driven biasing member comprising a hydraulic cylinder, and a glider movably linked to the arm, wherein the hydraulic cylinder exerts a bias force on the glider, and wherein the glider's position relative to the arm is selectively fixed and a relative separation of the platens is altered for a rigid operation by threaded rotation of the nut about the stud.

9. A method for operating a platen press device having first and second platens forming the press, a driven biasing member linked to at least one of the platens, and a tensioner linked to the driven biasing member, comprising the steps of:

providing a predetermined dwell duration by adjusting the tensioner;

establishing contact between the first and second platens for the predetermined dwell duration; and

creating an impression force between the first and second platens by transferring a biasing force generated by the driven biasing member to the platens.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the platen press device includes an arm for moving at least one of the platens and wherein the driven biasing member movably engages the arm.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the driven biasing member is rigidly connected to the second platen, and wherein the method further comprises the step of moving the arm

in opposition to a biasing force provided by the driven biasing member once the first and second platens establish contact.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of selectively fixing the driven
5 biasing member relative to the arm and altering a relative separation of the platens for a rigid operation by adjustment of the tensioner.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the driven biasing member is a spring driven biasing
member comprising a spring, dwell spacer, and guide shaft, and wherein the step of
10 creating an impression force comprises the step of transferring the bias force provided by the spring.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the spring driven biasing member further comprises
a glider slidably engaging the arm and fixed to the piston and the second platen, wherein
15 the tensioner comprises a stud fixed to the glider and a nut threadedly engaging the stud and abutting the arm, and wherein the predetermined dwell time is provided by threaded rotation of the nut about the stud.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the platen press further comprises a backshaft
20 having an offset bearing journal that extends from one end and is connected to the glider, wherein the backshaft is connected to the second platen, and wherein the method further comprises the step of varying the position of the second platen by rotating the backshaft about the centerline of the offset bearing journal.